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Resumed organizational session for 1992

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 8th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 28 May 1992, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. TRAXLER (Italy)
(Vice-President)

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In the absence of the President, Mr. Traxler (Italy), Vice-President, took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (E/1992/56)

The PRESIDENT invited members to consider the provisional agenda for the resumed organizational session of the Economic and Social Council for 1992 (E/1992/56).

Mr. MORA GODOY (Cuba) inquired whether any document had been circulated relating to agenda item 2 (Human rights questions) and the decision to be taken on the proposal made during the first part of the organizational session concerning measures related to the mandates requiring Council approval adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session.

The PRESIDENT said that no official document had been issued, but the Bureau had prepared a draft for consideration by the Council in due course.

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda was adopted.

The PRESIDENT said that the first item before the Council was the regional allocation of seats in the three subsidiary bodies that the General Assembly, in its resolution 46/235, had requested it to establish, namely, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development. In accordance with that resolution, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development was to be composed of 53 member States, and the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development were each to be composed of 24 government-nominated experts from different Member States acting in their

(The President)

personal capacities. The principle of equitable geographical representation was to be respected in determining the composition of those bodies. The Group of Eastern European States had informed the Secretariat of its proposal regarding the distribution of seats for that regional group.

Mr. SEZAKI (Japan) said that the composition of the Group of Eastern European States should be clearly specified since some of the newly-independent States of that region might choose to belong to the Group of Western European and other States or the Group of Asian States.

Mr. BARAC (Romania), speaking as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States, said that its current membership consisted of Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Yugoslavia. No requests to join the group had been received from other new Member States of the United Nations.

Mr. TALAVERA (Peru) asked whether the letter submitted to the Secretariat by the Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States expressing his views concerning the distribution of posts and potential future members of the Group would be made available to the Council.

The PRESIDENT said that, since no other regional group had put forward a specific proposal, he preferred to leave the Eastern European Group's position open as well, in order to facilitate negotiation. Consequently, the letter would not be circulated.

He suggested that the Council should continue its consideration of the item in informal consultations.

Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), speaking for the Group of 77, supported the President's suggestion.

It was so decided.

The meeting was suspended at 10.55 a.m. and resumed at 3.35 p.m.

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of the question of the regional allocation of seats in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

Mr. SHAUKAT (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group had discussed the various points raised by delegations and had reached agreement on an allocation of seats reflecting a percentage-based representation of the regional groups and taking into account the existing distribution of seats in the various bodies of the Council. It proposed the following allocation of seats in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development: fifteen seats for African States, thirteen seats for Asian States, four seats for Eastern European States, ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, and eleven seats for Western European and other States. The seats in both the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would be allocated as follows: six seats for African States, six seats for Asian States, two seats for Eastern European States, four seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, and six seats for Western European and other States.

Mr. CABRAL (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the European Community, said that delegations would need time to study the constructive proposal put forward by the representative of Pakistan. He proposed that the meeting should be suspended for that purpose.

Mr. BARAC (Romania), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, said that the proposal made by the representative of Pakistan was totally unacceptable.

Mr. MARTIN (United Kingdom) said that he wished to know what factors had been taken into account in formulating the proposal.

Mr. SHAUKAT (Pakistan) said that the Group of 77 had taken account of such factors as the importance of balanced representation of the various regions, the nature of the three bodies under consideration and the existing distribution of seats in other bodies of the Council. In a spirit of compromise and conciliation, the Group of 77 had also given due consideration to the views expressed earlier by various delegations, particularly those which were not members of the 77. It was prepared to consider the proposal submitted to the President by the Group of Eastern European States and would welcome any proposal emanating from the Group of Western European and other States.

Mr. HORIE (Japan) said that his country, as a member of the Group of Asian States, did not object to the proposal put forward by Pakistan.

Mr. KHALIKOV (Russian Federation) said that he supported the Portuguese proposal to suspend the meeting.

The meeting was suspended at 3.55 p.m. and resumed at 4.40 p.m.

The PRESIDENT said that it had been agreed that the various groups concerned with the regional allocation of seats on the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, the Committee on Natural Resources, and the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, would hold separate restricted consultations. The plenary Council, meanwhile, if members agreed, would go on to consider item 2 of the provisional agenda.

It was so decided.

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Commission on Human Rights had requested the Council to bring forward as much as possible its consideration of draft decisions emanating from the Commission at its forty-eighth session relating to mandates which required approval of the Council in order to allow for their timely and effective implementation.

Accordingly, he proposed adoption of the following draft decision:

"The Economic and Social Council, in accordance with its decision 1992/219, decides to authorize the Secretariat to take provisional administrative measures related to the mandates adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its forty-eighth session on a temporary basis and until a formal decision on those mandates is taken by the Council at its substantive session, it being understood that the provisional administrative measures should not be construed or interpreted as a confirmation of the mandates, which can only be done by the Council after a substantive discussion."

Ms. MEHTA (India) said that the draft decision to a great extent met India's concerns, but proposed, seconded by Mr. Raoelina (Madagascar), to

(Ms. Mehta, India)

defer a decision on its adoption until the text was available to all delegations in their own working languages.

It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS (continued) (E/1992/56)

Mr. GUERRERO (Philippines) announced agreement among the regional groups on the regional allocation of seats in the three new subsidiary bodies of the Council. The Commission on Science and Technology for Development would have thirteen seats for African States, eleven seats for Asian States, ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, six seats for Eastern European States and thirteen seats for Western European and other States. The Committee on Natural Resources would have six seats for African States, five seats for Asian States, four seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, three seats for Eastern European States and six seats for Western European and other States. The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would have six seats for African States, five seats for Asian States, four seats for Latin American and Caribbean States, three seats for Eastern European States and six seats for Western European and other States.

The PRESIDENT said that since the proposal put forward by the representative of the Philippines seemed to be generally acceptable, the Council would take a decision on it at its next meeting.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.